

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00560 171858Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /065 W

-----171901Z 118726 /45

R 171710Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3442

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NS

SUBJECT: STILL ANYBODY'S ELECTION

REF: PARAMARIBO 0399

1. IN LAST SEVERAL WEEKS EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED CONSISTENT SIGNALS THAT SURINAM'S FIRST NATIONAL ELECTIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE ARE LIKELY TO BE HELD IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. POSSIBLE RESCHEDULING OF PRESIDENT FERRIER'S STATE VISIT TO THE NETHERLANDS (POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE SOUTH MOLUCCAN TERRORIST ACTIONS IN HOLLAND) FOR THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER MAKES ELECTIONS DURING THAT TIME PERIOD IMPRACTICAL AND REQUIREMENTS OF SURINAM'S ELECTION LAW WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE ELECTIONS BEFORE THEN (THERE MUST BE AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE DAYS BETWEEN THE COLOSIN OF THE VOTERS' LISTS AND THE DATE OF THE ELECTIONS), WHILE PRIME MINISTER ARRON HAS STATED PUBLICLY MANY TIMES THAT THEY WILL BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF NOVEMBER.

2. THE FACT THAT ELECTIONS PROBABLY WILL NOT BE HELD UNTIL VERY CLOSE TO THE END OF PARLIAMENT'S CONSTITUTIONALLY-PRESCRIBED FOUR-YEAR TERM (NOVEMBER 19) GIVES THE NPK GOVERNING COMBINATION NAXIMUM TIME TO REBUILD ITS STRENGTH  
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FOLLOWING THE SOEMITA SCANDAL AND OTHER CORRUPTION CHARGES MADE EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT IT ALSO ALLOWS THE OPPOSITION VHP AND ITS ALLIES MORE TIME TO ORGANIZE AND REFINE THEIR CRITICISM OF THE ARRON GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE, AS WELL AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY NEW CHARGES OR MISTAKES WHICH MIGHT BE REVEALED. THUS, ONLY THE CAMPAIGN ITSELF WILL OFFER A CLEARER VIEW OF POSSIBLE

ELECTORAL OUTCOMES.  
ZURHELLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION LAW, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PARAMA00560  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 PARAMARIBO 399  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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